



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
21 NOVEMBER 1968

1. South Vietnam

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2. Australia

Most Australians, including a critical press, agree that Gorton put on an outstanding performance Tuesday when he defeated an opposition no confidence motion. This was his first major test since succeeding Holt. By a margin of 67-35, Gorton beat back a wide range of Labor Party challenges on his foreign, defense, and domestic policies.

Gorton does not have to hold general elections until November 1969, but he may decide to use the momentum of Tuesday's victory and call them for early next year.

3. Czechoslovakia

Students appear to be falling in line with rather pointed government suggestions that they stop their sit-ins and get back to class. Prague Radio is reporting that student committees are calling off their strikes today. The sit-ins have had distinctly anti-Soviet overtones.

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4. Communist China

Peking, where fear of foreign contamination sometimes becomes manic, is beginning another period of tighter security controls. Travelers going from Hong Kong into China are now being searched as they enter. Once inside, the visitors are encountering more frequent police checks.

The Chinese are clamping down on what gets out as well as what gets in. Foreign subscribers to Chinese publications are getting cancellation notices.

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5. Mexico

The net effect of Tuesday's demonstration was to harden the attitudes of both students and government. The students are refusing to end their classroom boycott and the government intends to close the national university if the strike goes beyond 27 November. The chance for renewed clashes is good.

6. Tanzania

Yesterday morning Tanzanian police took over Zanzibar in what was described as an exercise. While the city was given back to the radical Zanzibar Government by nightfall, the operation clearly was intended as an object lesson. Tanzanian President Nyerere has had little but trouble from recalcitrant Zanzibar, where most members of the ruling clique have been bought by one Communist country or another

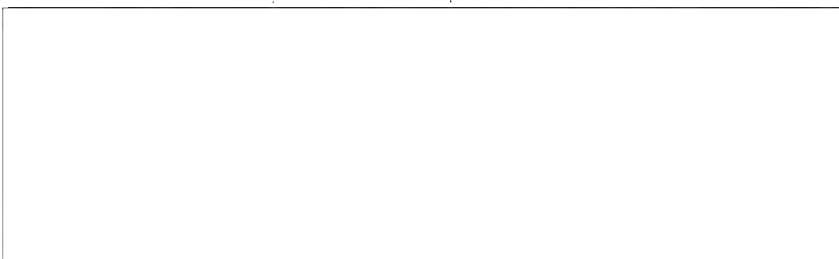
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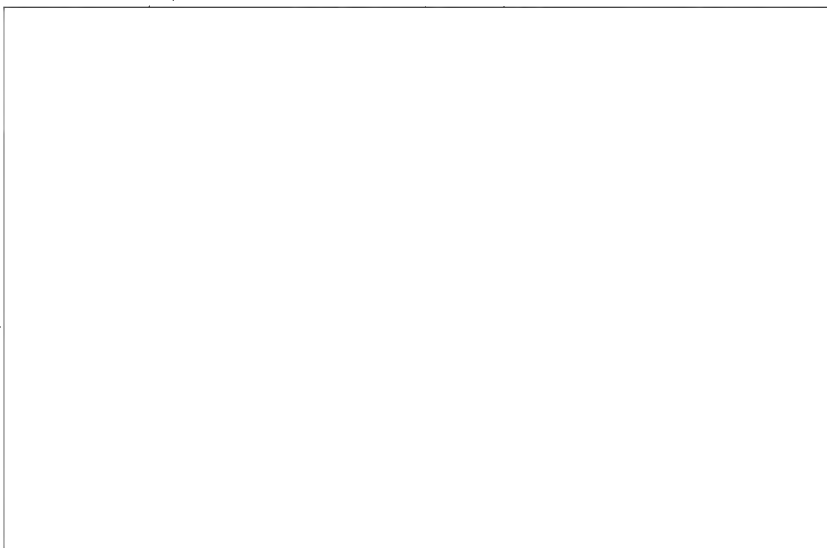
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7. Rumania



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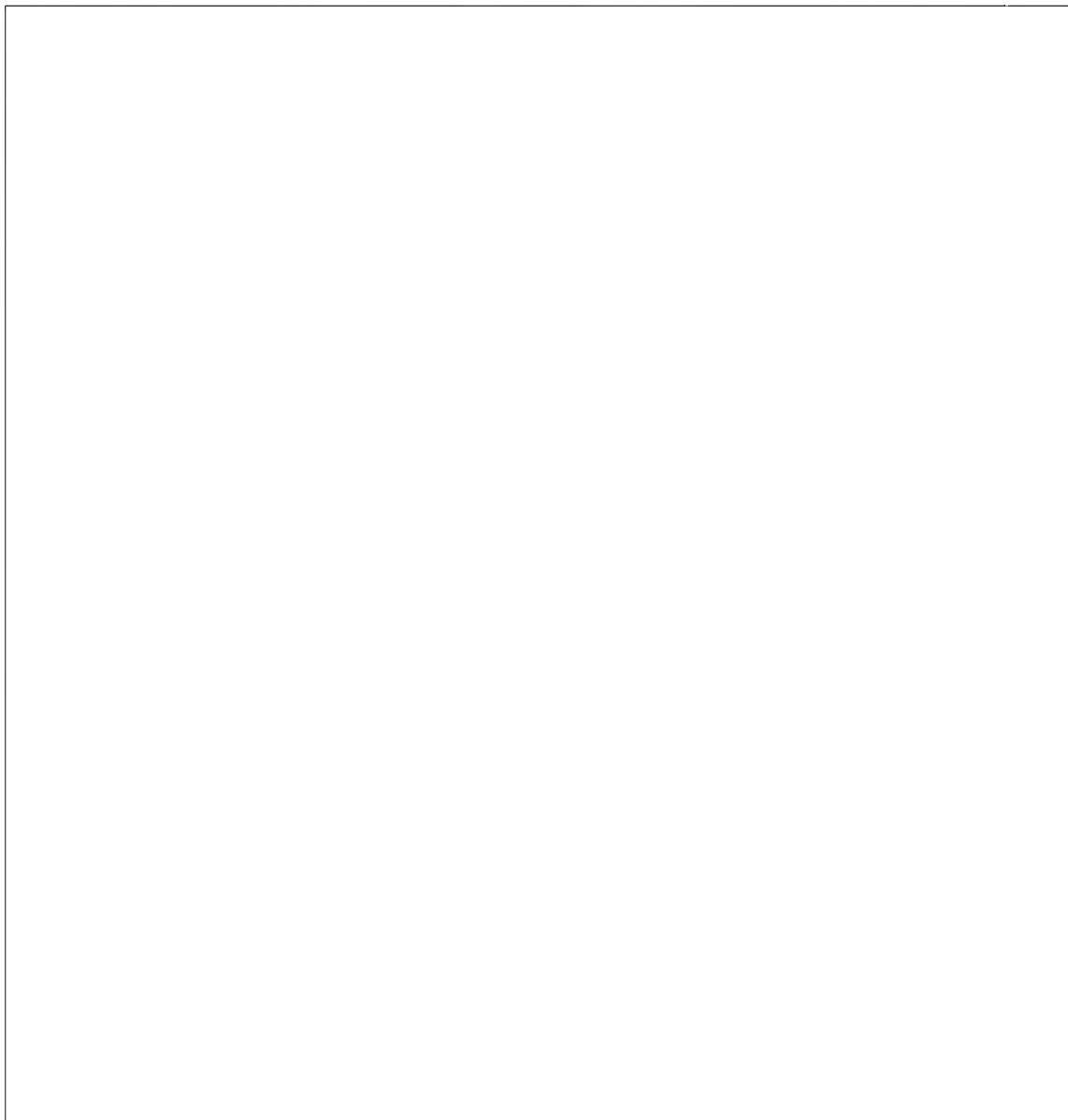
8. Venezuela-Cuba



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ANNEX



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TOP SECRET - CONTAINS SIGINT AND KEYHOLE MATERIAL

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

21 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Plays Up Viet Cong Attacks: Recent Hanoi Radio propaganda is giving increasing emphasis to the role of Viet Cong guerrilla and local forces in descriptions of the current fighting in the South. International service broadcasts in particular have specifically and consistently attributed Communist attacks to "regional army" units or local guerrillas. Such references reinforce the position of Hanoi's negotiators in Paris that military action in the South is under the direction of local Viet Cong commanders over whom Hanoi has no control.

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North Vietnamese Ambassador's Views on Talks: North Vietnam's ambassador in Cambodia told a journalist earlier this month that Hanoi is in no hurry for the expanded Paris talks to begin, and that Saigon's boycott works to North Vietnam's advantage since it enhances Hanoi's image. He stated his belief that the US would soon withdraw its support for the "Thieu-Ky clique" and that a coalition government favorable to a peaceful settlement would succeed it.

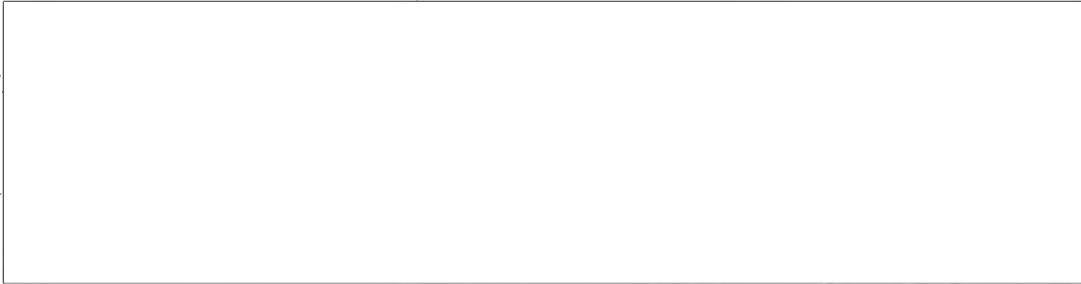
He observed that Mr. Nixon's election would not significantly alter the situation in Vietnam since Communist fortunes were inexorably on the upswing. This has been the standard Communist line for some time now.

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II: NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report to-
day..

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